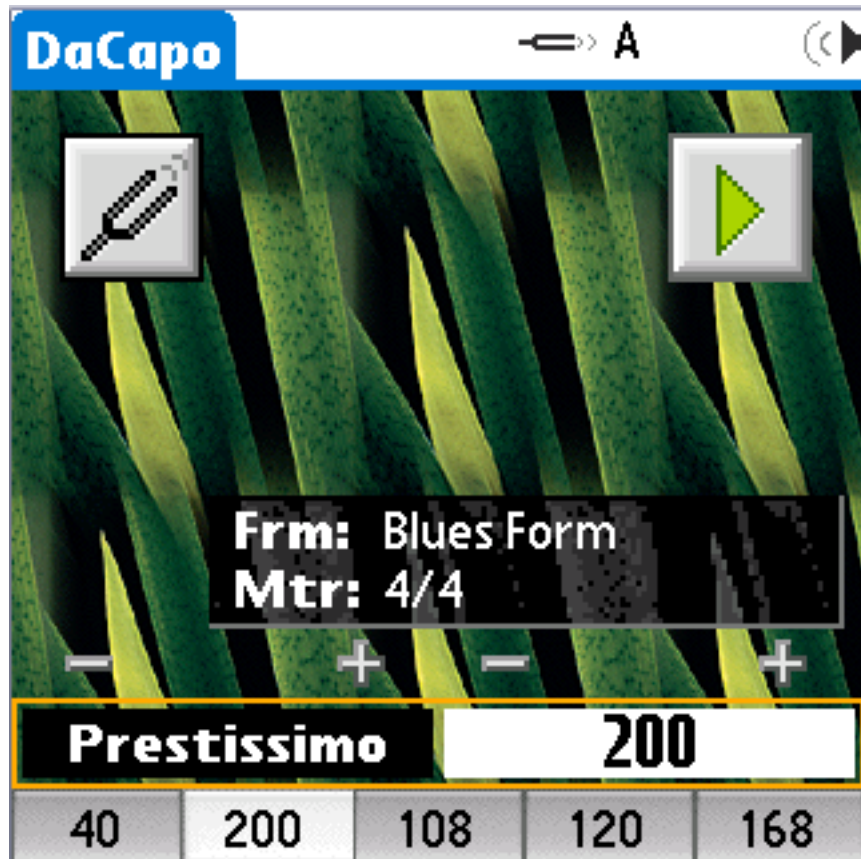




Welcome to DaCapo



Written by Arthur Roofs
Copyright © 2006 RoGame Software

Intro

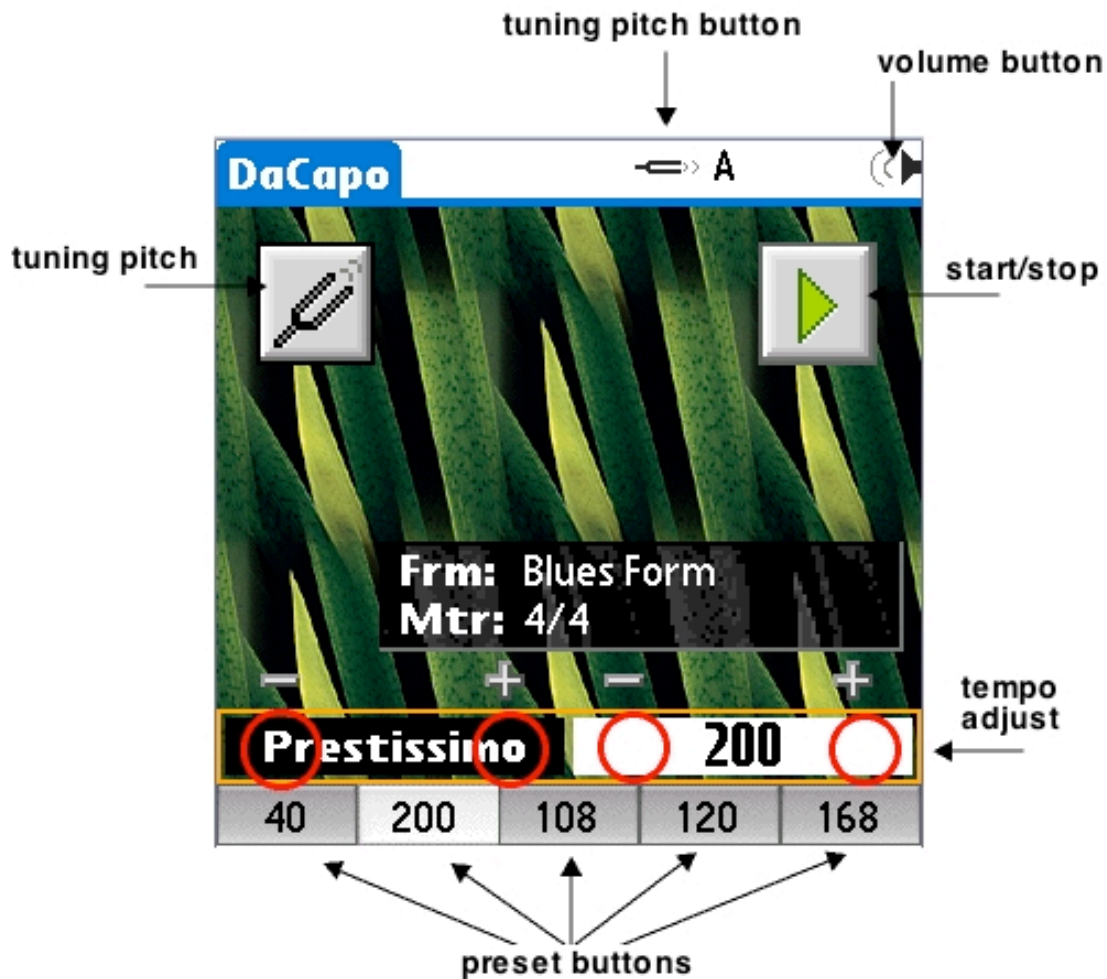
DaCapo is a metronome application conforming to classical metronome layout and its settings. This makes it very usable for classical training, classroom situations and any flavor of modern music. It painstakingly reproduces the range of the classical metronome, but also offers settings by tempo in Italian, e.g. *moderato*. Since this application runs on a handheld device with a touchscreen, much attention has been paid to one-handed usability, as a player might have a bow or plectrum in the other hand. Big buttons and a very simple main screen are the result. Easily available from the main screen are a start/stop button, a tuning pitch button and five fully configurable presets.

Under the surface DaCapo offers many very advanced possibilities that are implemented using technology not available to the classical gravity driven metronome or even the quartz metronomes that appeared in the late 80s.

DaCapo can play sampled sounds on most current devices. These are actual drum samples that can be configured in different ways like song forms. Song forms are important for the musician practicing current music forms like Rock, Blues, Jazz, Country, Folk, Rap and many more. With DaCapo one has the ability to not only mark the beat, but also the measure and the form of a particular piece of music and the application includes a song form wizard that can pre-select common song forms like the Blues Form, ABA, AABA, etc. This can be done for each of the presets individually and if the wizard doesn't provide what is needed, one can customize a song form to his or her needs.

Another nice touch is the tap input capability. This allows for tapping along with a song and determining the bpm (beats per minute) the song is played in. One can then decide to load a preset with that information and utilize it for practicing.

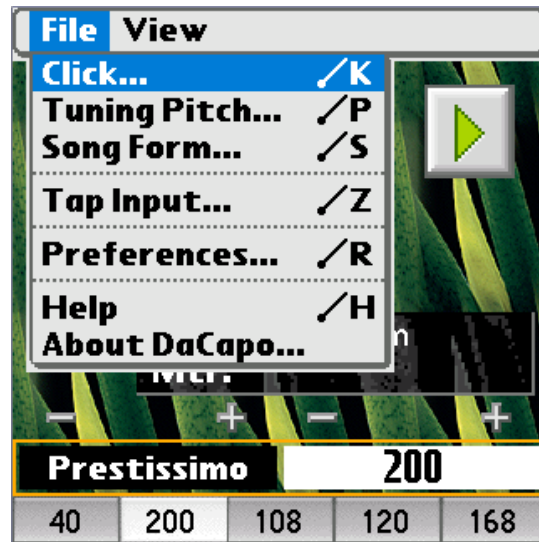
DaCapo has been adopted by lots of musicians, music students, high schools, universities and just plain music enthusiasts as the best choice of a metronome that you can carry with you.



Presets

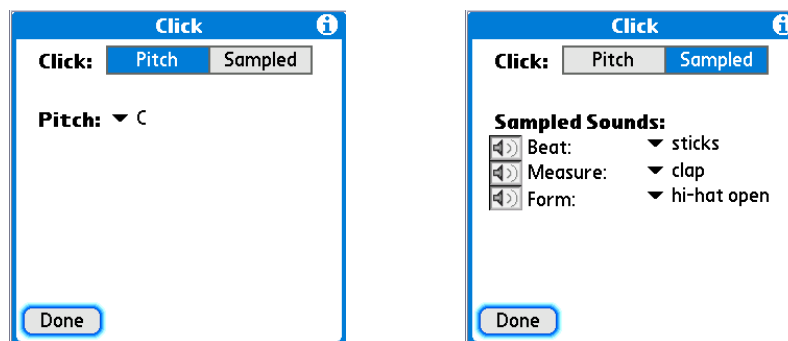
Most of DaCapo's settings apply to a preset. Five preset buttons are available from the mainscreen and are used to switch between these. To see presets in action just change the tempo. The tempo changes in the tempo button and simultaneously in the preset button. This concept is important as most of the editing operations that can be found under the File menu have the same effect. When you edit the click or the song form for example, you will in fact be editing the preset that is selected at that time. The other presets remain unchanged.

The File Menu



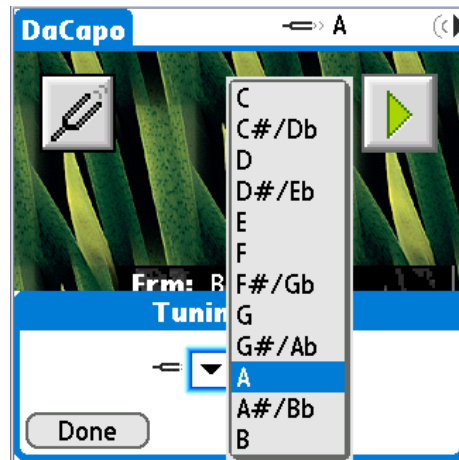
The file menu hosts all editing options available for the individual presets. While tempo adjustments can be done directly from the main screen, there are settings here that require a little more interface and dedicated editing screens.

Click Settings



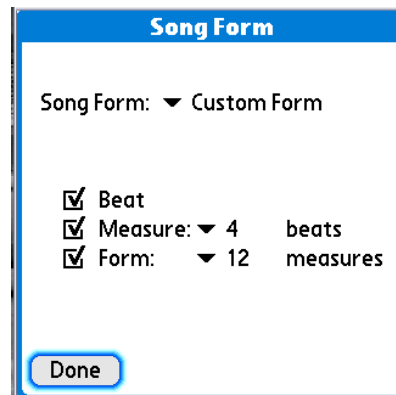
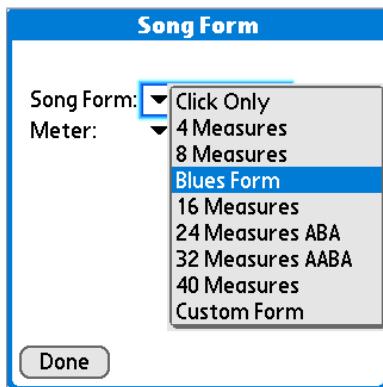
There are two different kinds of click sounds available with DaCapo – pitched sounds and sampled sounds. Pitched sounds are available on all Palm OS devices. The only setting that can be adjusted for these sounds is the pitch. Sampled sounds are available on most Palm OS devices running at least Palm OS 5.0 or higher. As seen above, these sounds can be selected from a popup menu and can be used to mark the beat, measure and form. The beat is here the regular click as when using a classical metronome. Measure and form markers depend on the song form settings. In a 12 measure Blues form with the settings shown above every first beat per measure would be played with the “clap” sound and the first beat of every first measure per form (every 12 measures) would be played using the “hi-hat open” sound. All other (regular) beats are played using the “sticks” sound. If a regular click is needed throughout the song, these settings can be overridden in the song form screen (s.b.).

Tuning Pitch



To set the tuning pitch played by the tuning button on the main screen, select the “Tuning Pitch...” menu item from the File menu. The tuning form shown above will appear and allow setting the tuning pitch for the current preset. As a shortcut, the tuning button in the menubar can be used to the same effect. As most settings, the tuning pitch is set for each preset.

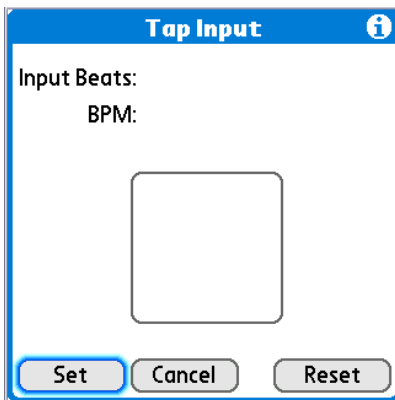
Song Form



The third menu item from the File Menu is the song form editor. As shown above (left) there are several form options and meters to chose from (meters not shown). Selecting the “Click Only” item will result in no song form and a uniform click for all beats. All other form selections with exception of “Custom Form) will mark the form with beat, measure and form markers.

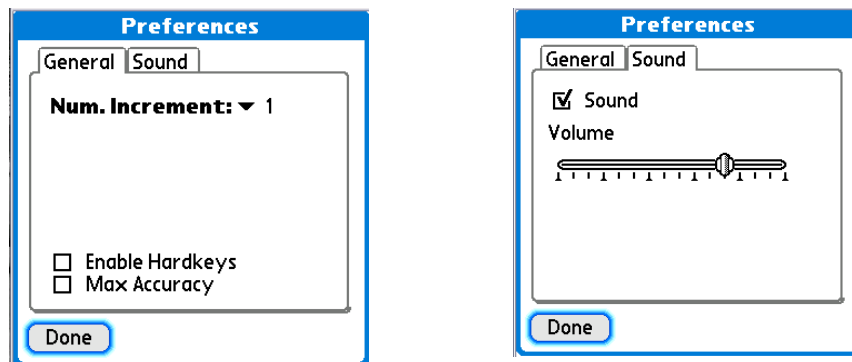
If more flexibility is needed the “Custom Form” option can be used. Beat measure or form marker can be turned off or on here and beats per measure and number of measures can be set directly. Again - all of these settings apply only to the current preset.

Tap Input



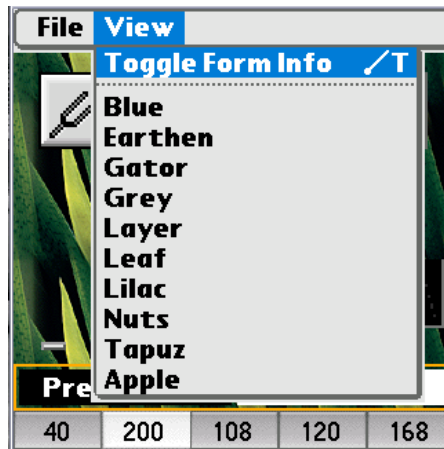
The Tap Input screen allows to tap along with a piece of music, determine its speed and then load the current preset with that speed. It is best to use a stylus for tapping the button in the center of the screen. When starting to tap the speed will adjust to the tapping. The “Reset” button should be used if after a while the speed changes appear to be fairly minimal, but the speed of the sound has not been matched yet. Tapping the “Set” button will load the current preset with the tapped speed.

Preferences



There are general and sound preference tabs (s.a.). In general preferences one can adjust the amount of bpm (beats per minute) the metronome adjusts to when tapping the speed button on the main form once. For older devices one can also enable hard keys here for start/stop and finally there is the “Max. Accuracy” option. The latter forces DaCapo to allow less background processing and is generally not needed. The sound preferences are simply an on/off switch for sound in general and a volume control.

The View Menu



The view menu allows to show or hide the form info box. Due to processor speed the latter may take some time on pre-OS-5 devices and one might decide to rather not display it at all. The other menu items are choices for the main screen's background.

Concluding

We hope you enjoy this program and find it useful. If you have suggestions or find anything wrong you can always email us.

© 2006 RoGame Software

Written by Arthur Roolfs
Copyright © 2006 RoGame Software